

THE OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES

Member of Audit Bureau of Circulation.

Published every evening except Sunday. Friday is combination of daily and weekly.

Exclusive Associated Press Report.

THE TIMES COMPANY

R. S. Graves, Managing Editor.

A. B. Weitz, Business Manager.

Office 117-119 West Second Street Telephone P. E. 3-36

Entered as second-class matter Aug. 27, 1910, at the post office at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Advertiser Representative: Robert MacQuoid Co., Inc.

Room 1016, No. 23-25 East 23rd street, New York N. Y.

Western Representative: Horace M. Ford, Peoples Gas Ridge, Chicago, Ill.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF OKLAHOMA CITY AND COUNTY

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Daily per week by carrier \$.25

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Weekly, per year \$.50

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WHEN THE WOLF IS AT THE DOOR

There are many in this city who have never heard the scratching and whining of the wolf at the door. They do not know what it is to be hungry and cold. Poverty has never camped on their trail.

There are others who know all the sorrows of poverty and who fight the gaunt wolf-year in and year out. They may be unfortunate and down on their luck, or they may even be improvident, but that is no reason they should be forgotten at this time.

Facts gathered by the officials of the Provident Association show that there are very few who are willing to accept help if they can help themselves. This does not include the professional beggars, but Oklahoma City has very few of them. Those who beg on the streets are usually passing through and are not residents of the city. It is those who live here and who belong to this community with whom we are concerned.

Members of these families may be profitably employed during certain seasons of the year, but still they do not make enough to buy up anything. A short season of unemployment places them among the dependents where they are unable to help their families and in such financial straits that they cannot send their children to school.

It is for the help of such as these that the Provident Association works. How much good is done may be known only to a few, but those who take the trouble to investigate will see that it is a great work. That is the reason the newspapers of the city joined in to help accumulate funds for the association at this time. It is not alone for the Christmas Basket Fund, but for the remainder of the winter. The association will need all that is contributed.

KEEPING POLITICS OUT OF SCHOOLS

Whenever we think of Boston there comes to our minds at once the synonym of culture and refinement, or at least that used to be the case. It may not be so since Boston has permitted politics to get into its educational system. Now the city is clamoring to get the politicians out.

It's not to be expected that Boston would maintain a more impeccable record than other cities do in the matter of popular education, yet it is with something of a shock that one finds that even the most "literary" city in America is confronted with the same problem which besets other municipalities where the activities of the professional politicians are concerned.

But it seems impossible to enslave the avaricious politician everywhere to keep his hands off the schools. He must have patronage and to do that he must dip into everything.

The average citizen everywhere is willing enough, for some mysterious reason, to have the financial, industrial and social problems of the city placed more or less at the mercy of ward intellects which have little or no capacity in the direction of any of these subjects, and whose mere existence is a reproach to civilization, but the instruction of the young is something apart.

We believe that no honest man anywhere is willing to take chances with the efficiency of the public school for the sake of favoring one political faction above another and if the public school system of the cities continues to be regarded as a target by the machine makers and maintainers there is pretty sure to be a general revolt which will go a long way toward making the ballot and its use what they ought to be.

CIGARETS IN THE EUROPEAN WAR

There is another question which the European war will not settle, although it may fix for all time the trade relations of the various countries engaged in it. The old argument of the relative merits of the pipe, cigar and cigarette will not be ended with the present conflict.

Much has been said and written against the cigaret and doubtless there was much truth in all that was said and written. No less an authority than Sir John French, writing about the war, describes how the British general smokes cigarettes throughout the day no matter how busy he may be.

Other accounts tell how the British soldiers smoke cigarettes instead of the traditional pipe. The Red Cross society has shipped 10,000,000 cigarettes to the allied troops as a measure of relief. Germans also have been depicted with the inevitable cigaret even while executing the gynastic goose-step. Robert Dunn, a war correspondent, tells of an interesting incident within the Austrian lines when Russian prisoners were willing to trade their buttons for the coveted cigaret.

The cigaret, long symbol of the mollycoddle, is now part of the kit of the soldier, manliest of men. Instead of an accompaniment of the swagger-stick it has become the comrade of the sword.

There is an explanation. The cigaret is not smoked for the aroma and the dreamcloud of rising incense which are much of the charm of pipe or

cigar. There is nothing meditative about it. It appeals direct to the nerves and without ado relieves the tension of the smoker. The devotee of the cigaret is as a whisky drinker who does not bother about the bouquet. He desires the effect and nothing else. And it is the neurotic effect that the fighter craves in his bloody work.

BEING INDOMITABLE IN DEFEAT

It must have been a surprise to the world to get a detailed account of the naval engagement which resulted in the defeat of Admiral Spee Von Spee's squadron by the British under Vice Admiral Sturdee off the Falkland Islands, but such an account has been written and there is no reason to doubt its authenticity.

It is stated that Admiral Von Spee was taken unawares. When he planned to seize the Falkland Islands which belong to Great Britain, he had in mind the destruction of an important wireless station. If he had received information about the presence of British ships he must have underestimated their number and strength.

As soon as the engagement became general Von Spee must have realized that he was outmatched in strength. Instead of offering to surrender he fought his ship until it sank. As the vessel was making the final plunge the members of the crew, who had preserved fortitude, cheered until the water closed over them.

Even the commanders of the two navies refused to recentre. While two of the smaller warships in the German squadron sought to escape they offered gallant resistance. But one ship, the Dresden, was able to show the victors a clean pair of heels. The British had one cruiser damaged and lost eight men.

While the kaiser's men have not been uniformly successful on the land, they have shown a spirit which should cause the German nation to feel their sea power is upholding every tradition that was nourished by the Fatherland.

HADLEY MAKES A GOOD SUGGESTION

The activities of American universities are so manifold that it is difficult for those not engaged in educational work to keep up with them. Young men go through them with a rash that is symbolic of the college football game. Degrees are turned out with the regularity of a manufacturing plant and preparation for almost any profession is offered.

It cannot be said that "educational versatility" is exactly the right term to describe it, but still it is true that a young man can be put through a university and emerge wearing a robe of almost any pattern in a few years. He may not know much when he comes out, but he has his degree.

The machinery undoubtedly exists in the American university, but Arthur T. Hadley in his latest report as president of Yale, has pointed to a deficiency in American university life which undoubtedly exists, though it is on the wane. "A thing which we need to do and have as yet done imperfectly," says President Hadley, "is to organize intellectual interest in things worth while."

In other words President Hadley would have universities less concerned with the number of diplomas dispensed than with the quality of scholarship they symbolize. This creation of an atmosphere of intellectual enthusiasm is the greatest problem of education in America. It is something that can not be procured by endowments. It must be communicated by faculties to students.

President Hadley is not the first to suggest a stimulus to intellectual activity among students, but that he should give the problem official recognition at this time prices a further advance in meeting the greatest of educational questions.

GOVERNOR BLEESE NEARING AN END.

Very soon the country will cease to hear of Governor Cole L. Blease, the South Carolina gentleman who has made such a strenuous and peculiar effort for space on the first pages of the newspapers. Governor Blease will soon retire into the pool of oblivion.

Only fifty prisoners are left in the South Carolina penitentiary and Governor Cole Blease will release these on Christmas morning. Thus the governor's house-cleaning orgy will come to a close. He will have turned loose upon the community over which he has presided a total of 1,480 convicts of all degrees and classes.

The retiring governor of South Carolina has made no worse mistake, among the dozens he has made, than the release of criminals by wholesale. The governor pretends that he is obeying the golden rule. The Golden Rule, however, never was based upon mauldin sentimentality.

In emptying the penitentiary Governor Blease has had the supreme audacity to undo the work of all the criminal courts in the state, and to dislodge the experience of criminologists and of legislators for years. Which shows that he is a colossal egotist whose loss of office should be made a reason for rejoicing by the good people of South Carolina.

We do not know how the people of his state feel about his retirement from office, but it is likely that in any other state such an event would be hailed with shouts of approval.

The Khedive of Egypt has gone to Vienna for a conference with the Austrian authorities. Abbas Hilmi may be a good patriot, but his conduct would indicate that he is not a farseeing person. No one doubts his ability to stir up trouble in Egypt. Everybody doubts his ability to bring about his restoration to his place. He deserves a pension from Turkey for what he has done. But will he get it?

Rear Admiral Fiske asserts that five years would be required to make the American navy what it should be. At last the calamity howlers have an undoubted supporter in their attempt to prove to the world that the United States is practically without defense.

No doubt the veiled skies that mark the passing of the present year indicate that 1914 is ashamed of itself, and as a matter of fact it has every reason to be.

Time always brings some compensations, no matter how late they may be in coming. Proof of this is found in the fact that Governor Cole Blease will go out of office in a few days.

The British seems to do considerable sleeping at the switch, or whatever they use for that purpose off shore and on the briny deep.

RICHARD S. GRAVES.

PEANUTS IN THE ROASTER

It appears that the Mexicans have trenches, too, but they are not dying in them as much as the European soldiers.

The Mexican war, as we understand it, does very well for moving pictures, but that is about as far as it goes.

And to think that we used to give it space on the first page and even so far a time or two as to put red lines over what seemed at that period to be an actual battle.

But that was before Cy Epstein and the Germans went against the allies and long before anybody thought they



would have the supreme nerve to bombard the court of England or sink any of the invincible British dreadnaughts.

Far be it from us to make any suggestions to such a highbrow as Gen. George Horace Lorimer, but if he is destined to give us a humorous aspect and pride that Sherman was wrong in his estimate of it, why doesn't he send Colonel Rhyde and Colonel Cobb to Mexico?

With a couple of sob-sisters doing the big show like Rhyde and Cobb in a kind of Mexican vaudeville act, it would seem that the circulation of the Saturday Evening Post ought to hold its own pretty well.

We are pained and grieved to notice that Colonel Stafford thinks this entire business is ad for the purpose of rearing a man big enough to whip Jack Johnson.

As we understand it, that isn't the case at all, for many of the setabists interested in gentlemen have never known to promote a prize fight.

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